Modernisation of fisheries sector

404. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICUTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that fisheries sector has vast potential in our country;

(b) if so, the action plan of Government to modernize this industry with a view to fully exploit its potential; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to develop this industry in the State of Orissa to improve its economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India implements various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of Inland and Marine fisheries in the country.

Government has set up Coastal Aquaculture Authority to regulate and develop aquaculture in coastal areas and a National Fisheries Development Board for overall development of fisheries sector across the country including the state of Orissa.

ICAR agreement with ICRISAT for dry land research

405. SHRIMATI S.G INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ICAR had signed a three year agreement with ICRISAT for farm research in dry land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the pact with the ICRISAT will benefit dry land farmers by improving productivity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) have signed an Agreement on 25.5.2005 for ICAR ICRICAT Partnership research projects (2006-2008). The agreement covers a number of partnership projects. The broad thematic area of these projects are: Genetic resources conservation, evaluation and utilization, Enhancing crop productivity and sustainability under both favourable and dry land stress environments, Improving system productivity and livelihood for fragile and dry environment including socio-economic and policy options, and Strengthening linkage between research and development including training.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The ICAR-ICRISAT partnership projects aims for: Development, evaluation of new and diverse parental lines with build in resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses in sorghum, pearlmillet and pegionpea. Efforts will also be made for development of high yielding varieties of chickpea and groundnut with a special focus for drought tolerance disease/insect resistance traits. The exchange of breeding materials, germplasms and production of nucleus/breeder seed of improved legumes will also be taken up. For improving, the livelihood in the rain fed areas participatory approach in integrated watershed management will be taken up for increasing the productivity. The products and the technology generated with these partnership projects will facilitate enhancing the production and productivity of dry land areas.

Collaboration between Indian and US Universities on agricultural research

406.SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased' to state:

(a) whether any university or organization has entered into an agreement with any US based university or organization in the field of agricultural research;